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IMMEDIATE

FRP:
STAFF

OUTGOING

OUTGOING MESSAGE

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OUTGOING MESSAGE

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

BRIEF

TO: IMMEDIATE

ROUTINE MEA BRIEF.

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST BRIEF

FOR 22 DECEMBER 1988.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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Approved for Release
Date JUN 1999

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2. PLO: ANTI-ARAFAT OPPOSITION UNITING

RADICAL PALESTINIAN OPPOSITION TO PLO CHAIRMAN ARAFAT'S NEW MODERATE POLICY TOWARD ISRAEL CONTINUES TO BUILD, INCREASING PROSPECTS FOR TERRORISM WORLDWIDE AND FOR GREATER VIOLENCE IN THE ISRAELI-OCCUPIED WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP. LEBANESE PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THE LEADER OF THE SYRIAN-BACKED POPULAR FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF PALESTINE--GENERAL COMMAND, AHMAD JABRIL, AND SAID MURAGHA--WHO HEADS THE SYRIAN-BACKED ABU MUSA GROUP--WERE KEY SPEAKERS AT A RECENT CONFERENCE IN WEST BEIRUT CONVENED TO SUPPORT "THE ISLAMIC UPRISING IN PALESTINE." CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DENOUNCED ARAFAT'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, CALLED FOR AN ESCALATION OF ARMED STRUGGLE TO LIBERATE ALL OF PALESTINE, AND THREATENED TO DESTROY "AMERICA'S INTERESTS IN THE REGION." DELEGATIONS FROM THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN BEIRUT, HIZBALLAH, AND THE ABU NIDAL ORGANIZATION ALSO ATTENDED.

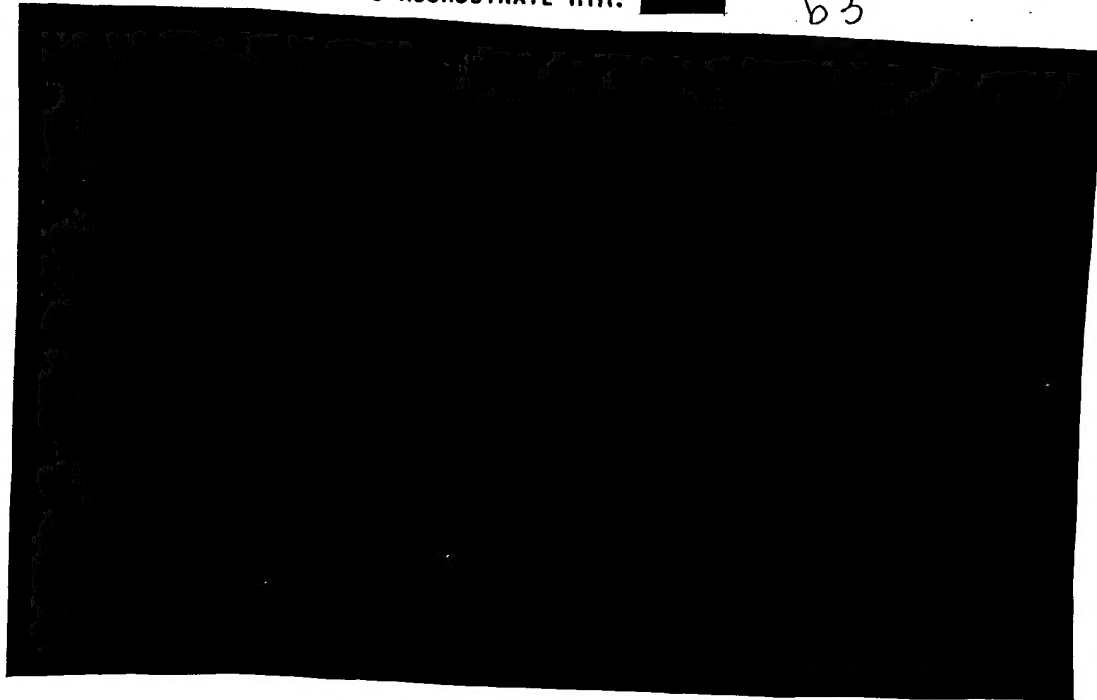
THIS UNPRECEDENTED PUBLIC GATHERING OF ARAFAT'S TRADITIONAL OPPONENTS AND HIZBALLAH--AN OCCASIONAL ALLY OF ARAFAT'S FORCES IN LEBANON--SUGGESTS THAT HE FACES A POTENTIALLY UNITED FRONT TO HIS MODERATION THAT WILL ENJOY AT LEAST THE TACIT SUPPORT OF SYRIA AND IRAN. ARAFAT'S DIALOGUE WITH WASHINGTON--WHETHER IT SUCCEEDS OR NOT--WILL FUEL CONTINUING HOSTILITY FROM RADICAL FACTIONS THAT ARE LIKELY TO TRY TO DISCREDIT HIM THROUGH TERRORIST

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ACTS AND MAY EVEN SEEK TO ASSASSINATE HIM.



4. IN BRIEF
SOUTH ASIA

X--NEW AFGHAN MINISTERS OF COMMUNICATIONS, TRANSPORT BOTH
APPARENTLY NONPARTY, FIGURES . . . ANOTHER EFFORT BY REGIME
TO LOWER COMMUNIST PARTY PROFILE . . . WILL ANGER HARDLINE KHALQI
FACTION LONG IN CONTROL OF BOTH MINISTRIES.

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